



Partners for Our Communities

Empower people and change lives



Empowering People, Changing Lives

FY25 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

A Message from the Executive Director



In November 2024, I had the privilege of starting my tenure as Executive Director of this wonderful organization. I first want to thank our founding Executive Director Kathy Millin for all of her care in building this organization, and for her wisdom that continues to be a great asset to the community, to POC, and to me personally.

We live in a time of great stress for our communities. Economic pressures, worries about our children and grandchildren and their future, concern for ourselves and our immigrant neighbors – all of these pressures have been with us for years but somehow seem more palpable today.

It is my great pleasure to come to work every day and work with all of you and to work with our entire community to meet those challenges and to thrive. We work together with partners throughout Palatine, Hanover Park, Chicagoland and all of Illinois to empower people to build healthy families and strong neighborhoods.

From popsicles at summer camp, a welcome at any of our locations, clothing and immigration legal assistance, everything we do is geared to making people's lives better, to strengthen our communities for everyone. I am grateful for the honor of doing this work and of partnering with you. Thank you!

Seth Moland-Kovash

Leadership

Board of Directors

President

David Border, MAPFRE

Secretary

Andrea Fiebig, Harper College

Treasurer

Bridget Witt, Wintrust, Palatine Bank & Trust

Vice President

Elizabeth Moore, Zurich

Executive At-Large

Tamara Johnson, Harper College

Karen Baker, Endeavor Health
Adam Bauske, Paylocity
David Brandwein, Palatine Police
David Campos, Palatine Celtic Soccer
Gary Pilafas, Village of Hoffman Estates
Jacquese Gilbert, D211
Jon Kunkel, Hanover Park, Village Trustee
John Wilhelm, Palatine Park District

Josh Ludolph, Palatine Park District
Laurie Heinz, CCSD15
Leslie Hotchkin, Community Volunteer
Magdalena Dolas, Harper College
Meghan Scholnick, Community Volunteer
Melissa Gardner, Palatine Public Library
Zubair Khan, Trivedi & Khan

Staff Leadership

Kathy Millin, Executive Director, Retired

Seth Moland-Kovash, Executive Director

Cristina Correa, Director of Community Connections & Teen Outreach

Liza Gutierrez, Director of Immigrant Programs

Lisa Hanson-Braun, Director of Advancement

Terri Kelly, Director of Adult Education & Employment Assistance

Rachel Lara, Director of Operations

Ambassadors

Allie Gilles

Denise Florczak

Donne Epton

Jennie Lussow

Kelli Hickmann

Kevin Price

Mary Haggerty

Michael Lorsch

Mike Barry

Sofia Verduzco

Vicki Wessels-Murphy

Young Professionals Board

Aremi Arroyo, Partners for Our Communities

Edgar Candelas, Wintrust Financial Corporation

Erick Flores, Partners for Our Communities

Katie Lynn, Palatine Park District

Kimberly Castillo, Wells Fargo

Kyle Rohrwasser, Vantage Financial Partners

Nathalie Gonzalez, THK America

Omar Coronado, Wells Fargo

Rachel Lara, POC/Palatine Park District

Stacey Chapa, Wells Fargo

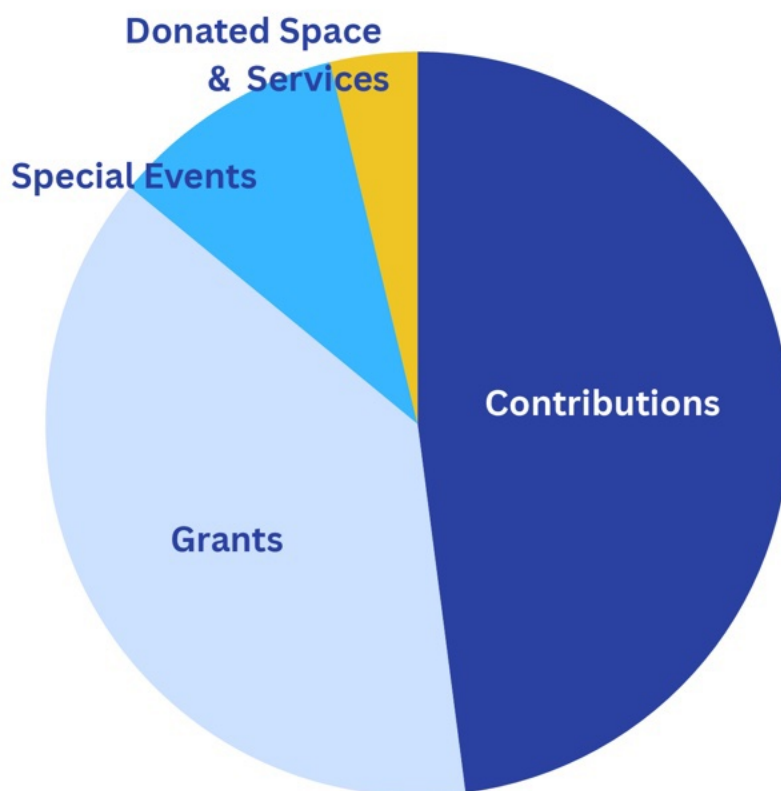


The Young Professionals Board awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships to Palatine High School graduates.

Financials

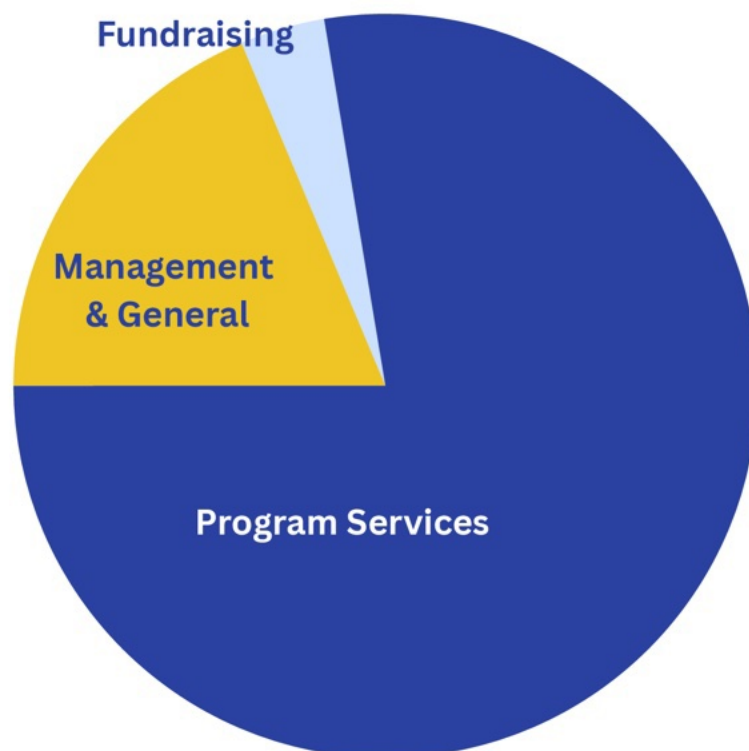
Revenue

Contributions	\$1,037,869
Grants	\$823,093
Special Events	\$221,838
Donated Space & Services	<u>\$81,992</u>
Total Revenue: \$2,164,797	



Expenses

Program Services	\$1,494,327
Management & General	\$504,716
Fundraising	<u>\$99,793</u>
Total Expenses: \$2,098,836	



POC by the Numbers

Based on Fiscal Year 2024 Audit.

\$1,098,642

Total Assets

\$2,165,300

Total Revenue & Support

\$46,024 | \$641,666

Total Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents -
End of Year

Embracing Community

Natalia arrived from Ukraine in August 2024 and joined the POC's ESL Conversation Groups (3-4 times weekly) while she waited to register for Harper or D211 classes. She came to the United States with her husband, two children, and her mother.

Natalia loves sharing her life experiences and appreciates the diversity within the POC community. She is incredibly grateful for the volunteers who support her as an individual and a community member.

Since arriving in the USA, she obtained her driver's license, used the Palatine Public Library as a study space, and became a POC Ambassador to educate others on POC services and programs.

Natalia became a POC Ambassador to share her volunteer experiences in Ukraine, where she and a group of women cooked for hospitalized defenders (soldiers) in a home kitchen, which led to a nearby college offering them kitchen space. The group grew, and the college encouraged students to participate as well. The support of food made the soldiers feel sentimental about home. The women made containers of nuts and honey for the soldiers to keep in their uniforms for quick nourishment.

Natalia and her family have acclimated very well to Palatine. They joined a neighborhood church, where her daughter sings in the choir.

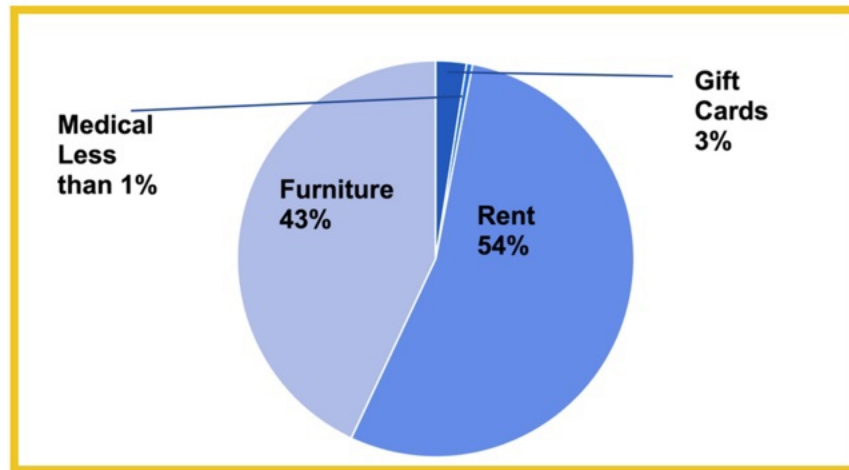


Her daughter joined the ICompete Program dance classes at the Community Resource Center. Natalia homeschools her children in their Ukrainian language and culture.

This story beautifully illustrates the power of community, collaboration among organizations, exemplifying the unwavering perseverance and resilience of the entire family.

We are delighted that they are part of the POC family.

Rebuilding Lives Together: Our Community's Response to Tragedy



Two multi-unit apartment fires hit people in our immediate area in early February. POC sprang into action with the support of our partners and the community. In partnership with Palatine Township, the American Red Cross, Faith Feeds Food Pantry, and numerous other organizations, we ensured that all 17 affected families had immediate access to shelter and food. But we know that rebuilding a life destroyed by an apartment fire is a long-term project.

Through the community's generosity, we raised \$39,544 to support these families in the rebuilding process. As of May 21st, POC distributed \$22,272.50. Each family continues to have interaction with POC Case Managers, allowing their individual needs to be assessed and met. Sometimes these needs have been met through direct financial assistance from that pool of resources (see attached pie chart), and sometimes through referrals and partnership programs.

Our Case Managers used the remaining donated funds for the direct benefit of the affected families. We met people's needs for shelter through rental assistance, as well as providing furniture, food, clothing, necessary medical items, and mental health services. Thank you for helping!

A Year of Impact & Growth

105,000

Client interactions by POC staff managing daily operations at the Community Resource Center in Palatine. Learn more about our partnership with Endeavor Health at <https://poc.news/about/our-partners>.



95%

Of teens attending bi-weekly groups felt more connected to their families and community.

16,316

Times that clients received assistance with Adult Education & Employment Assistance programs.

IL Welcoming Center

- A one-stop shop for social services for marginalized individuals and families.
- POC is a replicated model & leader across IL.
- Trained 44 welcoming centers.
- Served 2,100 households, including 850 new families — exceeding annual goals.

5,418

Experiences for youth and families provided by ICompete, including outreach, after-school programs, special events, and summer camp. More on our partnership with the Palatine Park District at <https://poc.news/about/our-partners>.



A Year of Impact & Growth



73,235 Individuals supported by POC staff while visiting Faith Feeds Food Pantry.

389 Lives impacted by the Parent Mentor Program in 4 CCSD15 Schools.

9,637 Individuals received clothing at our Clothing Closet.

Launched POC's Legal Clinic to provide access to justice.

- Hired POC's first Immigration Attorney.
- Became the Point of Contact for legal services in the Northwest Suburbs.
- Earned DOJ Recognition for two sites and Accreditation for two staff members — a significant achievement.



700 legal screenings completed by POC's NEW Legal Clinic.

3 new raised beds at the Roots Community Garden to promote food security and community wellness.

7,206 individuals reached through Know Your Rights & housing presentations.

Added a Full-Services Community School in partnership with CCSD15 for POC coordinators to be in two schools.

Learn More & Get Involved

We are grateful for our dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors, the strength of our partnerships and the resilience of the communities we serve. We look forward to building on this momentum!

Check out our NEW website
at <https://poc.news/>

- Donate
- Volunteer
- Attend an upcoming event
- Tour one of our sites
- Become an Ambassador
- Friend us on Facebook & share.
<https://www.facebook.com/PartnersforOurCommunities/>



Upcoming Events



<https://bit.ly/Golf2025POC>



Open House & Annual Appeal Campaign Kickoff

Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Community Resource Center
1585 N. Rand Rd.
Palatine, IL 60074
Ask Lisa how to help:

LisaHB@partnersforourcommunities.org